READY-TO-BILK-YOU'S LUCK

HOW FATE AND THE DEVIL COM-

The Story of as Clever a Seal Poncher as Ever Gave a Race to Uncle Sam's Patrol Bonts-Once in Jail in Sitka-Caught by a Fleet Russian and Seat to Siberia. He who steals and runs away, may live to steal

ant atunts in jali .- As They Say in Sirka.

His name was Riddebjelka, but from Fort Tongan to St. Michael's, Alaska remembers him as Ready-to-bilk-you. There are these in Sitka who wag their heads sympathetically and say that Ready-to-bilk-you was crazy, but shaggy-bearded old Capt. Pavlakoff, in command of the little 20-knot Russian gunboa Veodovna, puckers the lids of his bue eyes with a smile when he hears that, and says something away down in his throat, back of his palate. which, if it could come out and be interpreted, would mean something to the effect that crazy men are cunning, but they do not run away, and Ready-to-bilk-you, oh, it was a glorious

On the passenger list of the Queen he was booked as Liout. Melchior Riddebjelka. It was very early in the morning when the booming of the old smooth-bore gun down in front of the barracks announced to all Sitka that Capt. Carroll had let go the Queen's anchors in the east channel. If you live in a place where communication with the world is effected by means of a semi-monthly boat, you are likely to fall into the habit gradually per-haps, but none the less surely, of hurrying down to the wharf as fast as you can whenever the old cannon announces the ship's arrival. That is a regular function of Sitka society, and so in that early morning, not so many summers Lieut. Riddebjelka marched down the gangplank of the Queen, ne found the Government of Alaska waiting on the pier to see him. Even if there had not been that authoritative designation on the passenger list Sitka would have set the tall, handsome Sweds down for an officer without the slightest hesitation. His bearing proclaimed that, and his well set-up shoulders and slender waist showed that he was of the navy. Socially Sitka is distinctly except the families of the Government and the officers of the navy stationed there. Long experience has developed in them a fine dis-cernment and discrimination in the matter of the classification of the tourists who flock thither in the summer months, and so, when they set the blond-haired Lieutenant down for an officer in the Swedish navy, there was excellent reason for the designation. In fact, Riddebjelka himself admitted it, and before the day was out he had established himself in the Alaskan capital in a way that promised erament pleasant expectations of festivities The big Swede's credentials were of the very

best. He was on long leave, he said, with permission to go beyond the country, and he was availing himself of the opportunity to visit a country which had always greatly interested him. He had letters to the heads of the Govhe had met on the European station, had given him a letter to the commander of the little guined lying in Sitka harbor, the recognition of which kept the lamps burning in the Captain's quarters aboardship that night long after the watch had changed as the midnight eight belis. Riddebjelka was popular in Sitka, and the was diplomatic with the men and extremely polite to the ladies of the Government. He danced divinely, and was a master hand at each functions as Sitks society could manage. Some of the officers are on the China station now and their wives are with them, but they have not forgotten the round of gayeties that marked the closing month of that summer when Riddebjelka first studied Alaska and its customs. It was after the tourist season had closed. The big blue-yed Swede had come on the hast boat of the summer schedule, and the Sitks people were no longer obliged to guart their nonses to keep obtrusive tourists, off the boat for just the stay in Sitka, from walking unannounced into their houses in the tourist social functions of Sitka. A first it if my one was ever enhancement of the barraces because there were no longer obliged to gard their social functions of Sitka. A first it if my one was ever enhancement of the barraces because there were no longer obliged to gard their social functions of Sitka. A first it if my one was ever enhancement of the barraces because there were no beliance to the summer schedule to the simple of the barraces because there were no belianced to the simple of the barraces because there were no belianced to the simple of the barraces because there were no belianced to the simple of the barraces because there were no belianced to the barraces because the barraces because the barraces because there were no belianced to the barraces because th gunboat lying in Sitka harbor, the recognition of which kept the lamps burning in the Cap-

more like him. The wives of the tovernment had not cased talking about the handsome Swede when the seal natrol steamed away for the westward in the following spring. That was the year when Fighting Bob Evans went up in the beautiful white Charleston and showed the Alaskans something in war ships there than they had ever seen before, but even that show did not blot out the recollection of Riddebleika. Then the tourists began to flow into the town. The things that tourists do in Sitke, are curious. It's a sore subject with the residents of the town. Sometimes they walk right into the houses, without stopping for the formality of an introduction or even a request to come in. They are looking for curios. They seem to think that every one who lives there is fair game, and they flatten their noses against the outside of windows, peering through to see what manner of being it is who will lie in such a place. It is not so bad in the Indian rancherle. For one thing the Isdians don't care. Tourist curically means money to them. And for another,

another day. But he who steals and gets caught by the Government, alas for him, he does unpleas-

the smells of the rancheric are a protection against prying tourists' noses.

The summer was nearly over, and the women of 'he Government, drinking tea with the wife of the Judge, were discussing what they could do with the tourist nulsance, when the roar of the old brass six-pounder out in front of the barracks sent them all outside in a hurry to see what had come in. The rovenue cutter Rush, old and wheezy, was letting go her anchor in the east channel, and further out a fat, grimy schooner was aircally riding on her cable, while her crew were unking her shipshape for a long stay. It was a setzure. The brass guns on the Rush barked, and the Judge and the District Attorney started down to the pler to meet the Captain's launch. It came puffing up to the landing, and the Judge and the District Attorney started as the other in blank amazement. In the stern sheets sat Riddebjelka, smilling and undisturbed.

"Yes," said the Captain, climbing out on the landing stage, and answering at once the unspoken question of the Judge and the District Attorney, we get him. That's his schooner, rat-ridden and slime-stolikens, but she's full to the ganwaies with sealskins."

It is the privilege of women to say, "I told you so," and the District Attorney knew what to expect. He had long for often be talk with his wife on the night after the dinner to Riddebjelka. She had forgotten it, too, but the arrest which had recalled it to him he knew would remind her of it also. As for the rest of Sitka, it was surprised and shocked entirely out of its customary decorum. All save Larry Relimore. He went up to do bailiff duty at the Cart room door when the big Swele was arraigned that afternoon, swearing under his breath.

"Didn't I tell you?" he said to one of his fellows detailed for similar duty, "Riddebjelka, I don't think; Ready-to-bik-you, I guess."

There was an emphasis of fine displeasure in the last "L;" but larry had done more than

fellows detailed for similar duty, "Riddebjelka, I don't think; Ready-to-bik-you, I guess,"

There was an emphasis of fine displeasure in the last "I," but Larry had done more than he thought. The name he had made for the seal poacher stuck, and they know it now in the smallest station on the long coast line. All of Sitka that could get in flocked to the preliminary examination of Ready-to-bilk-you and his men that afternoon. There were not many of them, less than a dozen all told. The stry was the old, familiar one, but this time they had been caught redinanced, and did not have the defence that had worked so often that her were outside the dead line. The Captain of the revenue cutter easily made out his case. The District Attorney, familiar from experience with every detail of the process, hurried through his libel. The full term of court was coming on, and before it was over Ready-to-bilk-you was Going time in the jail down under the harracks for seal peaching, no better off than any of his men who were with him, not so well off as they, for his sentence was longer by several months. Then the Judge sitting as a Court of Admiralty, quickly settled the case of the schooner and her cargo. There was an austion sale down on the big pier, and the case of Ready-to-bilk-you and his schooner was ended, so far as the Judge and the District Attorney were corcected. When the marshal had filed his report of the completion of the sentences that would end it all.

So the handsome big Lieutenant began his second stay in Sitka. Apparently he was less

ing. We'll not be helping him to get ready for another."

It was Ready-to-blik-you, sure enough, Before he had been at anchor half an hour he had come ashore in his gig and shown himself to some of the men be chose to call his friends, lie was the same even-tempered, blue-cyed Swede as on his first visit to Sitka, not in the least annoyed, on the surface at least, recause the Captain of the gunboat had refused to help him out.

which the parshal had filed his report of the completion of the sentences that would end it all.

So the handsome big Lieutenant began his second stay in Stika. Apparently he was less concerned about it than any other person in the town. He spent his time in smiling introspection, and seemed to get a great deal more fun out of the situation than many of the men who had helped to entertain him the year before. His keeper found out that the eventempered Swede was ingenious and elever, and set his prisoner at work whenever he could find anything to be done, if he thought that would displease Ready-to-bilk-you he was disappointed, for so far as outward appearances went the poacher enjoyed it. He was not in the least disturbed when the Government officials began to borrow him from the marshal to do any little odd bits of work that they happened to have on hand.

He whitewashed the Governor's back-vard fence with just as much satisfaction as he had waltzed with the Governor's breity daughter less than a year before. The Captain who had talked so long with him about seal peaching at the smiling seal thef at that time. The Captain retired in utter confusion and confessed to the District Attorney's wife who, rememing the mal had life.

The women were very much interested. It was the District Attorney's wife who, rememing the mal had life.

The women were very much interested. It was the District Attorney's wife who, rememing the district Attorney wife who, rememing the district Attorney's wife who, rememing the district Attorney's wife who, rememing the mal had life.

The women were very much interested. It was the District Attorney's wife who, rememing the district Attorney's wife who, rememing the district Attorney wife who, rememing the part of t

The marisal was very accommodating in the tribute of the control o

Buss I'll go and see."

Town at the landing stage his launch was lying.

"Come lack and tell me what's the matter," called the District Attorney's wife, as the launch put out for the ship.

"All right," sheated the Captain, and turned to look at the schooner, He saw at a glance that any was built for speed. Her bow was slarp, and her run was clean. Her masts were tall, and her spars long. She carried a lot of sail, and there ask a very businesslike looking funned just aft of amidiships. By the time had taken this mental measure of the schooner he had known from the first that he had never seen her before he was alongside als ship, and I alling the officer of the deck.

"What saip is that?" he sung out.

"The Dordjenskield of Seattle, for the westward, sir," was the answer.

"Who's her master?"

"Ready-to-bilk-you."

"What's he want with us?"

"What's he want with us?"

"What's he want to look them over. He says he can't patch it up himself. I sent Mr. Blake and two men to take his measure and see what they could do."

"Well, call them back, and look lively. He's

SHIPS AND CREWS.

The Raicigh and the Texas-Changes in the Personnel-The Allotment of Pay,

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.-An example of the current expenses incurred in executing our neutrality laws during the Cuban war is furnished Raleigh and the Montgomery. The latter lost a steam cutter in a storm and the former ran aground, and is now under repairs, Uncle Sam

principal need being that of adding new frames as the spaces between the present frames are structural strength. For this purpose the botplate half an inch thicker than the present one accomplish all this, the outer plates must be reshoring up the ship and taking off her weights. Capt. Glass, who has proposed many of the able war vessel after the defects, not unnaturalour battle ships ever built here, have been inch guns of the Texas will be removed from redoubt, where the water will not get so hot, and where repairs, if needed, can be more easily

United States, as the tours of duty of officers and men have expired, and the Adams has gone to Honolulu to relieve the Bennington, which will then proceed to China and take the place

of her sister ship, the Concord. Under contracts made the other day the Bethlehem Works are to supply the forgings for the 13-inch guns for the Kearsarge and the Kentucky, and the Midvale Works the forgings for the S-inch guns.

during the coming week will lead to something not often seen in our navy, namely, father and son occupying its highest grade. On Admiral Carpenter's retirement, Commodore Thomas O. Selfridge will be promoted to the vacancy among the Rear Admirals, while there is already a Rear Admiral, Thomas O. Selfridge, on the retired list. The son is now in command of the European station, and will so remain after his coming promotion. Lieut.-Commander Singer, now the Chief In-

telligence Officer, may be assigned to one of the retary Herbert is understood to be desirous, in that case, that Capt. Mahan should be the next Chief of the Naval Intelligence Office. It is believed that his reputation and rank, as well as

lieved that his reputation and rank, as well as ability, would elevate the importance and usertimess of the office.

The Navy Department is about to provide for a fixed and uniform reduction in files on the suspension of an officer from duty for a certain period as panishment. The ground is that at present too much is left to chance. One officer may be suspended for a year as the result of the sentence of a court, and meanwhile perhaps, only a single change may be made among those above him calling for promotions; and at another time an officer under similar suspension would find half a dozen of his funder spassing over his head in an equal period, owing to the

party was celebrated to-night by the Union Republican Club at the Centre Market. Prominent speakers served to draw a crowded house, and there was much enthusiasm over some of the oratory. The first Convention of a national character in the history of the party was held in l'ittsburgh on Feb. 22, 1856, and as this Con-

in l'ittsburgh on Feb. 22, 1850, and as this Convention was arranged for in Washington it was decided that the mational capital was especially appropriate as the place for holding an anniversary celebration.

Thomas J. Lasier, President of the Union Republican Club, called the meeting to order, and at his invitation A. M. Clapp, one of the few surviving members of the l'ittsburgh Convention, presided over the exercises. Addresses were delivered by Senstors J. R. Harley of Connecticut, S. H. Cullom of Illinois, and G. C. Perkins of Callfornia, and Representatives C. O. Boutelle of Maine, R. G. Couains of Iowa, C. N. Brumm of Pennsylvania, J. S. Sherman of New York, and C. A. Towne of Minnesota. The invocation was delivered by the Rev. 4: H. Corey, A band was in attendance and player patriotic lire.

PAINE'S CELERY COMPOUND.

being about \$4,000 out by the two operations, apart from ordinary cruising expenses. Work goes briskly on upon the Texas, the Mrs. J. A. Sample Owes Her Good Health to This the Best of All Remedies.



21. This piece of astronomical knowledge means little to healthy people, for they sleep about the same number of hours all the year

ing at the ceiling and counting the strokes of the clock, every sleepless night is an eternity to nerves were on the verge of prostration. She thinks her condition was due to indigestion. Here is what Mrs. Sample says:

"I have used Paine's celery compound with marked and decided benefit. It is especially useful in insomnia, arising from indigestion and poorly nourished nerves.

"I should add that my granddaughter, Vera Haffelgh, was so thin and pury at the age of ten as to cause us the greatest anxiety. We had no

The brain is the centre of the nervous system. Sheep alone rests this vital organ, together with the nerves. During the waking hours the nervous eystem works incessantly. Poor sleep means a poor nervous condition, and prolonged insomma leads in every case to prostration and too often to dread insanity. The mischief that results from shabbily nearished nerves is much greater and more destructive than the unprocessional part of the community even dream of.

The all-important thing for nervous, rundown persons and for those who are losing sleep, is that Paine's celery compound builds up the whole physical system, and by improving the digestion and regulating the nerves, it in-

the whole physical system, and by improving the digrestion and regulating the nerves, it insures sound, refreshing sleep.

In winter women and many men lead hothore lives. A flagging appetite, a disposition to jack at this dish and that rather than to eat a courte meal is among the early indications of failing health. Then comes delay in falling asseep and the fretful, uneasy feeling the next day.

The almanae says that the shortest night of the year is June 21, and the longest December 21. This piece of astronomical knowledge means little to healthy people, for they sleep about the same number of hours all the year round, and one night is much like another to them.

As for the unfortunates who lie awake, staring at the ceiling and counting the strokes of the clock, every sleepiess night is an eternity to them, whether the month be February or July.

Mrs. J. A. Sample, 214 West 24th street. New York, was afflicted with insomnia until her nerves were on the verge of prostration. She

well.

Mrs. Sample tells of the happy result in the case of her grandchild. One of the most conspicuous instances of the remarkable power of Paine's actiery compound over debility is shown in the relief it has afforded children. Of course the dose is adapted to the age of the little patient. The compound purifies the blood and corrects any tendency to constipation. Pale, puny children are made vigorous, rosy, and healthy by this incomparable remedy.

COAL IN ALASKA.

Valuable and Extensive Seams Abut on the

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21. Dr. W. H. Dall, a member of the party of scientific men who went covering some facts in regard to the mineral on the subject, which will shortly be published

"The coal in Alaska," said Dr. Dall to a cornated with respect to bodies of water, for up there the bighs where the coal occurs are so pear the water that it is a matter of but a few

CRIPPLE CREEK GOLD FIELDS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.- A revelation of the WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—A revelation of the methods of the United States geological survey is shown in the elaborate monograph on the Cripple Creek mining industries, issued to day, as to the result of scientific research by evenerts. Over 200 folio pages, filiastrated with forty photographs and colored maps, nake the publication unusually attractive. The history of gold finds in the Cripple Creek district began in 1874, when a geological survey afta he found specimens, and a rush was nade for the field, which, however, shortly collapsed. Ten years later a salted caim brought 5,000 prospectors to the spot, but not until the spring

De Is Confident that It Will Pass in Spite

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Representative Quigg is very confident that his bill providing for a new Custom House building in New York city will go through the House during the present session. He considered every question that might arise in connection with the proposed bill before he presented it to the House, for he is well aware of the general opposition the leaders this time. He says he consulted the officers of fled them in its construction. Then it was releading up to the measure were fully explained to him, so that he could not find any objection the content of the co to it. The bill is now in the hands of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, and it is expected that it will be reported favorably from that committee at an early day. All of the

Recognition of the Suitan.

Washington, Feb. 22. J. Judson Barclay, United States Consul-General at Tangler, Morocco, reports to the State Department that a permanent American mission station has been successfully established, after several difficulties, at Mequinez, in the southern part of that country, by the Rev. Mr. Nathan, the pioneer head of the "Morocco Mission." Last October, at Mr. Nathan's request, Mr. Barclay procured for his party a letter from the Minister of the Sulian to the Governor of Meppinez, securing their safe conduct and demanding a right to locate in the city and occupy permanent premium. The kindness of three Equinmak women was demonstrated but Saturday. Learning that their safe conduct and demanding a right to locate in the city and oscupy bermanent premises. The Moorish authorities of Mequinez refused them the privilege of freating a house unless they would bind themselves not to stay longer than five months. They were urged to go not a lithy enclosure and secure safety under the protection of armed grards the quarter infected with claims germs. Mr. Barchay protested, and demanded the rights and privileges due Americans under the treaties, and the Minister of the Saltan promptly compiled and gave Mr. Nathan and this associates a streng letter to the invertor, which had the dearnd effect. Mr. Barchay says the mission is now irmit established with the permission and recognition of the Turkish Government.

"This concession," he adds, "will mark an important era in the history of Morocco, which, it is to be hoped, will begin to lose its character as a 'terra incognita' to Americans, now that the edge of the wedge of the stern civilization and Christianity has entered."

BISMARCE BITTERS once a dy builds up.



They Contract to Cut 250 Cords at 61 a Cord to Help Build a Church.

Pour Junyes, Feb. 21.-The little villages of Equinunk and Little Equinunk are on the Delaware River west of this place in a mountainous more wood acid manufactories are located Chemical Company. The hardy woodchop pers live in comfortable homes. The women are healthy, fair looking, and are not afraid t handle an axe when the occasion demands it. They are kind-hearted and devoutly religious. Of sate the Methodists of Equinunk have undertaken to erect a house of worship, which has proved rather up-hill business. The women of wheel" and assist in the work, and they set contract with the Chemical Company to cut and pile in a workmanlike manner 250 cords of acid wood during the last week in February, for which they are to receive a dollar for each cord, the money thus raised to be used for the building of the church. They sent the following letter to their male and female friends for

and near to take part in the work; EQUINCER, Pa., February, 1696.
We, the undersigned, having entered into a contract with the Equinum Chemical Company to cus and pile 250 cords of acid wood during the last you to this chopping party. Said wood belongs to the Chemical Company and is located near Equi-nunk village. The cutting and piling of one or more cords to be done in a good and workmanlike man